



Permanent Mission of
Malaysia
to the United Nations

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STATEMENT BY THE HONOURABLE MR. LOH SENG KOK, MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT AND REPRESENTATIVE OF MALAYSIA ON AGENDA ITEM 34: COMPREHENSIVE REVIEW OF THE WHOLE QUESTION OF PEACEKEEPING OPERATIONS IN ALL ITS ASPECT, AT THE FOURTH COMMITTEE OF THE 62ND SESSION OF THE UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY, NEW YORK, 2ND NOVEMBER 2007

Mr. Chairman,

1. Let me begin by expressing our appreciation to Mr. Jean-Marie Guehenno, Under-Secretary General of the Department of Peacekeeping Operations, and Ms. Jane Holl Lute, Assistant Secretary-General for the Department of Field Support, for their comprehensive presentations last Wednesday on UN peacekeeping operations. We commend the United Nations Department of Peacekeeping Operations (UNDPKO) and the Department of Field Support (DFS) for their efforts and dedications in seeking new and innovative ways towards improving the capacity of the UN Peacekeeping operations in all its aspects.

2. My delegation aligns itself with the statement made by the distinguished representative of Cuba on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM). I would, however, wish to highlight a few points of special interest to my delegation.

Mr. Chairman,

3. Having participated in UN peacekeeping activities since 1960, Malaysia could claim certain degree of authority and comfort when speaking on UN peacekeeping matters. Let me, however, first begin by underlining our firm support to the central role of the United Nations in the maintenance of international peace and security. We consider the UN peacekeeping operation as an indispensable instrument that has contributed immensely to the resolutions of many armed conflicts both in the context of inter-state and intra-state conflicts. We maintain the view that among the many roles of the United Nations, peacekeeping is one of the most crucial role in which the United Nations could take pride in being able to deliver, to certain extend, to the expectations of the international community. We are mindful of the daunting responsibility being placed on the United Nations and the desire of this organization to be able to do more in order to secure durable and sustainable peace in the affected countries. It is therefore pertinent that members of the United Nations continue to provide firm and unwavering support especially in the area of human and financial resources to ensure the successful implementation of peacekeeping operations. We reaffirm our belief that economic and social progress would only be possible through maintenance of peace and stability and in this regard, peacekeeping operations play an important role in conflict affected countries.

Mr. Chairman,

4. My delegation notes that the United Nations have been involved in peacekeeping activities for more than four decades. The wealth of experience of the United Nations in this area would be useful as the United Nations faces the challenges of peacekeeping operations in light of emerging multi-dimensional and complexities of some of the new and current conflicts. Despite this experience, it would be impossible for the United Nations to meet these challenges without the genuine commitment and support of all UN agencies, member states, regional organization, NGOs and donor countries.

5. In this regard, my delegation fully support the implementation mechanism established by the UNDPKO to create synergy between efforts made by the Department and those of other entities of the United Nations system, as well as other intergovernmental and non-governmental entities, towards increasing the benefits of the collective efforts. The willingness to shift from traditional peacekeeping operations to multi-dimensional tasks is a manifestation of our maturity and pragmatism driven by our concern and commitment to respond and address the increasingly sophisticated and complex peacekeeping operations. In this connection, my delegation fully supports the strengthening of the Peacekeeping Best Practices Unit to enable it to play a more active role in the development of generic guidelines, procedures and best practices for current and future use in peacekeeping operations. In this regard, we note the statement made by Mr. Guehenno last Wednesday that the Capstone Doctrine is a 'living' document that would need to be reviewed and updated on a regular basis to reflect the continuing evolution of UN peacekeeping. Malaysia has contributed our views on the doctrine which we have channeled through NAM. We hope that the views and concerns raised by member states regarding the draft Capstone Doctrine would be taken into consideration so as to ensure that the draft document would eventually serve to provide the proper guideline for UN peacekeeping operations. We look forward to working constructively with other member states in this regard.

Mr. Chairman,

6. The current increase in UN peacekeeping operations reflects the confidence of the international community, including the affected parties, on the positive role of the UN peacekeeping operations towards the maintenance of peace and security in the affected areas. In this regard, we welcome the efforts of the UNDPKO at enhancing professionalism, management and efficiency of UN peacekeeping. We share the view on the need for the UNDPKO to have within its pool, high quality personnel who would be able to meet the new challenges of UN peacekeeping operations. At the same time also, we wish to see a geographical balance on the representation of personnel and troop contributions particularly at Headquarters.

7. In light of the many challenges confronting UN peacekeeping operations and as an active troop contributing country, Malaysia reiterate our commitment to zero tolerance policy on all forms of misconduct, including sexual exploitation and abuses by any of the UN personnel. In this regard, Malaysia will work constructively with other member states in ensuring the implementation of the recommendations of the Special Committee on peacekeeping operations.

8. The efforts of the United Nations to increase its peacekeeping capacity and capabilities in order to further improve the prospects for conflict resolution, would entail financial implication that would be a strain to the already stretched resources of the UN. In this regard, while member states continue to honor their contribution to the peacekeeping budget, we call on

member states, particularly those which have the means, to also increase their voluntary contribution. We also call on them to actively participate and contribute peacekeeping troops, staff officers or military observers. It is important that all member states, in particular the developed countries that possess well-equipped and well-trained military personnel, to actively contribute to increase the capability of the United Nations in meeting the current surge in the demand for UN peacekeeping operations.

Mr. Chairman,

9. Malaysia recognizes the usefulness and supports the cooperation between the United Nations and regional entities in peacekeeping in accordance with Chapter VIII of the Charter. In order for such cooperation to be feasible we are of the view that the United Nations should continue to provide all the necessary support through its larger membership, including advisory, logistic and financial support towards enhancing the capacities of regional organizations or arrangements in peace-making, peacekeeping and peace-building activities. However, it is imperative to ensure that missions undertaken on a regional basis are governed by the basic principles of peacekeeping, in full conformity with the UN Charter and the involvement of regional solutions would not absolved the UN of its responsibility.

Mr. Chairman,

10. The Government of Malaysia is constantly reviewing its position with a view to assess the best possible ways and means to effectively contribute in the work of the UNDPKO and participation in UN peacekeeping missions. Although the total number of our personnel participating in UN peacekeeping missions is less than what it used to be in the past, this does not in any way reflect a diminishing commitment on our part to the peacekeeping activities of the UN. In fact, we are currently actively involved in ten UN peacekeeping missions by providing military observers, staff officers, Protection Company and Police personnel. As a member of the UN Standby Arrangement System, Malaysia is also ready to meet our obligations in the form of making available a troop contingent whenever they are required.

11. Malaysia's commitment towards UN peacekeeping is also manifested through the setting up of the Malaysian Peacekeeping Training Centre (MPTC), which among others provide training for Malaysian military and civilian police personnel as well as foreign participants. This centre is the only training institute dedicated for peacekeeping in the Southeast Asian region. Recently, the MPTC, in collaboration with the UNDPKO-Intergraded Training Services, successfully conducted a training course for 43 peacekeeping trainers from 23 nations.

Mr. Chairman,

12. My delegation joins others in offering our high tribute and honor to the memory of those, including twenty three (23) members of our Malaysian armed forces, who have made their supreme sacrifice in the service of the United Nations and for the noble cause of peace. We strongly condemn attacks and act of violence against the UN peacekeeping personnel. We urge the immediate stop to these acts of violence. While acknowledging the risks that these peacekeepers would face in carrying out their duties, these risks could be minimized with the full cooperation of the conflicting parties concerned. The security and safety of all peacekeeping personnel is our collective concern.

Mr. Chairman,

13. Let me end my statement by reiterating Malaysia's commitment towards the collective attainment of global peace through its unwavering support to the central role of United Nations in the maintenance of international peace and security. We remain ready to work under the banner of the United Nations with other member states towards meeting this objective.

I thank you, Mr. Chairman.